



# esprit orchestra

alex pauk **music** director **and** conductor

**Big Bang!** 08·09

next concert thursday march 26, 2009

**Brand New and Pre-Loved**

**AIYUN HUANG** percussion

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts

## DEAR CITIZENS OF PLANET EARTH

**Big Bang!** is Andrew Staniland's percussion concerto celebrating the International Year of Astronomy 2009. It offers us the musical equivalent of the incredible density and heat, exponential expansion, red shift and blue shift of the first moments of our Universe. Aiyun Huang will give an out of this world performance as percussion soloist. While we perform, Andrew will be in the mountains in Banff as a finalist in *Evolution*, a re-designed version of the CBC Young Composers Competition.

Bruce Mather's **Hommage à John Hawkins** is a work of elegant transparency, clarity of thought and refined poignancy. Its musical essence conveys Bruce's following comments – "It is common that an artist enjoys success for a few years and then is forgotten. As painful as this is for the artist concerned, it is usually not a great loss for society as he (or she) is soon replaced by another artist of equal value. The case of John Hawkins is different, as he was uncommonly talented."

I was introduced to Dutch composer Mayke Nas (self-described "composer, searcher, slow-food cook, Bach fugue player") last year in Amsterdam. Her jaunty **La Belle Chocolatière** is named after the famous Droste-cacao-tin from 1900 with the image of a handsome nurse on it that holds a tin of cacao, with the image of the same nurse that ... etc. She writes – "The piece is an attempt to see a piano piece of Debussy from that time (*Mouvement* from *Images I* – 1903) through a Droste-microscope."

Omar Daniel's **Trope** is in the context of Medieval Chant: 'the composition of a new melody [and text], which is then sung together with a traditional chant in various ways, e.g., before and/or after it, or by alternation of the phrases of the trope with those of the original chant.' Omar borrows from some of his earlier pieces to form the 'traditional chant' of his **Trope** and then, like crazy, interpolates, layers, elaborates, fragments, threads, magnifies and embellishes old and new material to give us musical excitement.

BEST REGARDS, ALEX PAUK music director and conductor  
Make sure you join us at 7:15 pm for the pre-concert chat with Bruce and Omar.  
We're working on beaming Andrew in from The Rockies via satellite.

### PREMIERES ON THIS CONCERT

**BIG BANG!** – **WORLD PREMIERE** commissioned for Esprit by CBC RADIO MUSIC

**HOMMAGE À JOHN HAWKINS** – **WORLD PREMIERE**  
graciously offered to Esprit by Bruce Mather

**LA BELLE CHOCOLATIÈRE** – **CANADIAN PREMIERE**  
originally written for the Nieuw Ensemble, Amsterdam

**TROPE** – COMMISSIONED & PREMIERED by ESPRIT in 2000

**espritorchestra.com**

**tickets**

adult \$32, senior \$24, student \$15

**Two-concert special**

adult \$60, senior \$40, student \$20

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts

27 Front Street East, Toronto 8 pm concert / 7:15 pm pre-concert talk

**Box Office: 416.366.7723 or 1.800.708.6754**  
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